



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Frank W. Dawson III, Acting Secretary

Meeting of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission
January 27, 2015
Canvasback Conference Room
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Philip Merrill Environmental Center
6 Herndon Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403

Summary of Motions & Actions

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Bill Goldsborough, Ed O'Brien, Jim Gracie, Mark DeHoff, Phil Langley, Roger Trageser, Vice-Chairman Dave Sikorski, Rachel Dean, Val Lynch, Ray Morgan, James Wommack, Dave Smith (for Vince Ringgold), Tim Smith and Kate Chaney.

Commissioner Absent and Not Represented: Micah Dammeyer and Beverly Fleming

DNR Staff Attending: Tom O'Connell, Paul Genovese, Scott Knoche, Karen Knotts, Lynn Fegley, Jacob Holtz, Mike Luisi, Alexei Sharov, Angela Giuliano, Acting Lt. Aaron Parker.

Members of the Public Attending: Eddie Green, Marty Simounet, Larry Jennings, John Page Williams, Joshua Moore

Motions: Made by Rachel Dean, Seconded by Tim Smith.

Add a striped bass spring trophy fishery management measure to the four measures presented by Director O'Connell, up for consideration. The additional measure is based upon one submitted by the Solomons Charter Captains Association (SCCA): 1 fish per person: 1 striped bass per person of 28-36" or 1 over xx" (to be determined by DNR to achieve the required 25% reduction). Motion passed by a vote of 9 Yes, 1 No, 3 abstained.

NOTE; After the meeting, Fisheries Service determined that the above option would consist of 1 fish either between 28-36" or 40+".

Action Items:

- The SFAC did not recommend that DNR take any further regulatory action on the striped bass pre-season catch and release fishery. The rules established in 2010 are adequately controlling effort and mortality.
- The SFAC agreed to discuss the 5 striped bass spring trophy fishery management options with their constituents and provide any additional advice to the Fisheries Service by Friday, January 30th. Comments should be sent to Tom O'Connell at thomas.o'connell@maryland.gov or [410-260-8281](tel:410-260-8281).



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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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- SFAC Vice-Chairman, Dave Sikorski, agreed to send an email to SFAC members regarding legislation to provide for a 365-day sport fishing license period instead of it being based on a calendar year. The purpose of the email is to seek SFAC member support so a letter of support can be provided to the General Assembly when the bill is heard.

Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None

Next Meeting Date: April 28, 2015

To be held in the Conference Room C-1 of the Tawes Building from 2:00-5:00 PM.

Follow up to second action item (above); after SFAC meeting commissioners agreed to provide feedback after discussing options presented during meeting with constituents they represent.

The following table is a summary of the feedback many commissioners provided on their preferred management option for Maryland’s spring trophy fishery. Director O’Connell thanked the commissioners for the constructive discussion during the meeting on this challenging management issue and commented on the responsibility the members have to represent a diversity of fishermen, and how it is never easy to put a recommendation on the record when you know the advice a commissioner provides will be disappointing to some fishermen.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
SFAC Members	1 fish 36+"	1 fish at 36+" with charter boats being able to substitute one 36+" with one between 28-36" per boat	2 fish: 1 36+" and 1 40+"	2 fish: 1 28-36" and 1 42+"	1 fish 28-36" or 40+"
Kate Chaney					
Micah Dammeyer					X
Rachel Dean					X
Mark Dehoff					X
Beverly Fleming					
Bill Goldsborough					X
Jim Gracie					
Phil Langley					X
Val Lynch					X
Ray Morgan					X
Ed O'Brien					X
Vince Ringold	X				



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Dave Sikorski					X
Tim Smith					X
Roger Trageser					X
James Wommack					

A majority of SFAC members who responded favored Option 5: 1 fish limit either between 28-36” or 40+”. One Commissioner preferred a 1 fish limit at 36+”, while another preferred an alternative slot option consisting of a 1 fish limit either between 28-34” or 38+”.

After careful consideration of the commissioners input, Director O’Connell believes that Option 5 best meets the diversity of interests among Maryland’s fishermen. Option 5 continues to provide an opportunity for a trophy fish (>40”) while also providing an opportunity to those which would like to have a better chance to bring a fish home. Option 5 will also provide increased protection to the female spawning stock which is an objective of ASMFC’s recent management action.

At Thursday’s ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board meeting, the Director plans to request the Board’s approval of allowing Maryland to consider Option 5 for management pending Technical Committee review and approval.